

Mike J. Burrows

For several years the perfin which provided quite a puzzle was,
22/CSC 10,10/8,10,8 5/42

It was not until 1970 that member Paul Redmond came up with the identification of the user,

COOK SON & COMPANY London, E.C.4.

Descended from a Wymondham, Norfolk, family; William Cook began business as a retail linen draper at 7, Great Warner Street, Clerkenwell. Trading with a partner as Cook and Martin, from 1807 to 1812. Continuing in his own name he also had premises at Fish Street Hill until 1830.

By 1819 he had decided to expand and opened a wholesale warehouse at 89 Cheapside. Brother James joined the firm and in 1822 became a partner. Another partner, a Mr Gladstones, appeared on the scene three years later. Upon moving the wholesale firm to St. Paul's Churchyard in 1834 the trading style of Cook, Son & Gladstones was adopted. This lasts until 1843.

Francis Cook joined his father in 1833 and ten years later became a partner, the name changing to Cook, Sons & Company. On the death of his eldest brother, in 1852, it became known as Cook, Son & Company. This was retained until 1920.

The philanthropic Francis took a great interest in the arts and was elected a F.S.A. A Baronetcy was conferred upon him on 10th March 1886. When he died in 1901 his personal estate was valued at £1,500,000.

Stubbs Directory for 1897 gives the Company's address as 22 - 26 St. Paul's Churchyard. Possibly this would account for the number in the perfin die.

In 1920 the Company was incorporated and became Cook, Son & Co. (St. Paul's) Limited. At this time it had one of the largest warehouses in the wholesale textile industry. Consisting of four main blocks opening on to eight streets and connected by no less than eighteen bridges or tunnels. Capital for this thriving concern was given as £4,000,000. Indeed, one could say that this family of Norfolk stock was a fine example of the little acorn.

One other perfin is listed for this Company:

698 CS/&Co/SP 8,10/14,8,6/10,10 4½mm (111)

The SP is presumed to stand for St. Paul's.

NOTE, In the 1950 - 1970 period it was considered that the CSC stood for Civil Service Commission. This is listed in the Illustrated Catalogue as 17.2. Has any member concrete evidence of this identification?

Another item in the Catalogue is,

698A CSC/22 8,10,8/10,10